

**ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
OFFICE OF VITAL RECORDS
SUBSTANTIVE POLICY STATEMENT SP-063-PHS-VRS**

**WHEN A BODY IS CONSIDERED STORED
UNDER VERY LOW TEMPERATURES**

This substantive policy is advisory only. A substantive policy statement does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal procedures of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules made in accordance with the Arizona administrative procedure act. If you believe that this substantive policy statement does impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties you may petition the agency under Arizona Revised Statutes § 41-1033 for a review of the statement.

The purpose of this substantive policy statement is to notify the public of the Department's interpretation of "very low temperatures" in A.A.C. R9-19-314(C) and the effect of that interpretation on disinterment permit requirements.

R9-19-314(C) states that "A body stored under conditions of very low temperatures shall be regarded as interred. At such time as it is further buried, cremated or removed, a disinterment permit shall be obtained."

A body may be stored at controlled temperatures in a refrigerated storage space in several instances such as:

- 1) When not being viewed or prepared for final disposition at a funeral establishment,
- 2) While the medical examiner waits for the results of tests, or
- 3) When used for educational purposes, when the body is not being used by instructors and students.

These bodies are being stored at controlled temperatures that may at times be lower than current outdoor temperatures.

The Department does not believe that the intent of the rule is to regard a body stored in these instances at controlled temperatures to be interred. As a result, the Department has determined that a body in these and similar circumstances does not require a disinterment permit when the body is taken from controlled temperature storage with the intent of providing final disposition of the body.